Background

- Myanmar is an agriculture based society and variety of crops produced all year round.
- Food security comprises four key dimensions: availability of food, access to food, and utilization of food and stability of food.
- In term of supply, Myanmar’s food secure producing 357.9 kcal per person in 2013.
- Diversification of crops generates income of farmers’ households, creates their employments, and achieves self-sufficiency of foods at farmer level.
- Decision of the farmers on crop diversification is the important economic decision and has a strong impact on farmer’s income level & food security of the households.
- Many determining factors on crop diversification such as demographic, socioeconomic, biophysical & institutional characteristics.

Objectives

- To study the socioeconomic characteristics and crop diversification (indexes) of sampled farm households in the study area.
- To analyze the factors determining crop diversification.
- To investigate the food security status of the sampled farm households in relation to crop diversification.

Results and Discussion

- **Main income sources**
  - Crop production (58.75%)
  - Livestock production (20.19%)
  - Others (21.06%): trading, salary, remittances, casual labor, pensions, assistance, etc.

- **Common crops**
  - Oil seed crops (Sesame: 93.8%)
  - Cereal (Rice: 65%, Sorghum: 77.5%)
  - Pulses (green gram 63.3%)
  - Vegetables (45.5%)

- **We observe a negative correlation between crop diversification levels and food insecurity status (Pearson’s correlation -0.583)** among the sampled farm households in the study area.

- **Decision of the farmers on crop diversification is important economic decision and has a strong impact on farmer’s income level & food security of the households.**

- **Diversification of crops generates income at farm level** and achieves self-sufficiency of foods.

- **Many determining factors on crop diversification such as demographic, socioeconomic, biophysical & institutional characteristics.**

Empirical Findings

- **The study further revealed that farming experience, education level of household heads, farm size, access to irrigation and access to credit were positively and significantly affected to crop diversification.**

- **Age of household heads, non-farm off-farm income and distance to market were negatively and significantly affected crop diversification.**

- **Food security is associated with crop diversification in the study area and farmers should be stimulated to more diversify the different crops in their cropping pattern.**

Conclusion

- **Crop production** — main income source for about 60% of households.
- **Better household food security associated with crop diversification and thus encourage right selection & cultivation of different crop types in their farming systems.**
- **Access to irrigation** — necessary for proper management, and well maintenance as well as interven and encourage water saving practices, e.g rainwater harvesting.
- **Extension contacts** — promoting crop diversification — selection of more profitable, drought resistant and suitable crops.
- **Market accessibility** — promote development of road and market infrastructures.
- **Further studies** — food security indicators, comparison among different land holding size, benefit - cost analysis, large sample size.

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